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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, July 9, 2008)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris from Marshalltown United Methodist Church, Wilmington, DE.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our most gracious God, You, who are the creator of all humankind, You, who understand all the complexities that we encounter in our everyday lives, You, who understand the challenges faced by the women and the men in this Chamber as they care for Your people throughout this Nation and around the world—God, hear our prayer on this morning.

If it is wisdom that is needed, give the wisdom of Solomon. Where there may be lack of patience, give Senators the ability to tolerate with a heart of compassion. Should there be disagreement, send Your Holy Spirit with an attitude of peace. And, above all things, may the result of all the works within this place free Your people, free many nations from hunger, from grief, from pain.

May all the works of justice and love bring glory to Your Holy Name. This is our prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, Senator BIDEN and I are delighted to welcome to the Senate today the Rev. Dr. Patricia Bryant Harris, who pastors at a church not far from where Senator BIDEN and I live in northern Delaware.

In her prayer this morning, she called on God to grant us wisdom. It is not infrequently, when our Senators meet with our own Senate Chaplain, Barry Black, that he, too, prays for us for wisdom and encourages us to ask God for wisdom as we deliberate the issues that are before us. As Senator BIDEN and the Presiding Officer know, the issues before us this week have been difficult and we needed all the wisdom we could garner.

I have been privileged to know Reverend Harris for close to two decades. She has had a career that included remarkable accomplishments in the private sector and then, somewhere in the 1990s, she decided she felt a calling from God to enter the ministry. She has done that as a Methodist pastor in our State and a series of assignments—actually an assignment that led her down to Salisbury, MD, and the Delmarva Peninsula, where she oversaw a great number of churches.

As we could tell from her prayer, she is a loving, giving, caring, patient person. She is one who has reminded me, and I think reminds her congregants in her own home church in Marshalltown, that God wants us to do two things—if nothing else, to do two things: To love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind and to love thy neighbor as thyself.

Barry Black, our Chaplain, often-times reminds us in the Senate—as Senators we ask how do we use our faith to help inform what we do as Senators, and he always takes us back to that second great commandment, and so does Reverend Harris, that we have an obligation to love our neighbor as ourselves.

She also reminds me and reminds those who worship at her church that we have an obligation to those who are hungry—when they are hungry we have an obligation to feed them; when they are naked we have an obligation to clothe them; when they are thirsty we have an obligation to give them to drink; when they are sick and in prison we have an obligation, regardless of what our faith is, to visit them.

Those are wonderful lessons, not just for the people in her congregations over the years; not just for those who worship in our State but wonderful lessons for us in the Senate.

It is with great pride that Senator BIDEN and I welcome Reverend Harris today to help get us started on the right foot and to do not just the Senate's business, not just the business of our country but the Lord's business as well.

With that having been said, I know Senator BIDEN is here and he wants to comment. I am delighted to welcome Senator Harris—Senator Harris? There was a Senator Harris, there may be another one someday too—I am delighted

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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